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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Coal Deposits in the Caucasus/Fuel Rationing

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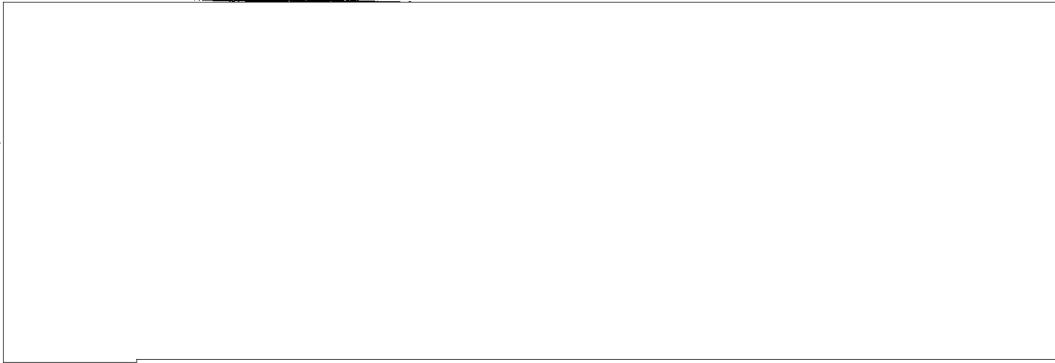
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1.

Coal with good qualities for coking is found in a Jura layer all the way from the Labe River to the Caspian Sea. In Daghestan, coal at a depth of about 100 meters (it is not very deep in the Caucasus) in a seam about one to two meters in width. At the town of Chernorechenskoye [presumably at 44°14' N, 40°57' E] near the Chernaya River [43°08' N, 40°33' E], there is a deposit of very good coal, excellent for coking (better than in Daghestan). Another coal deposit, Khumarinskoye, is situated along the Kuban' River. This deposit, contains two layers of coal which were mined even before the Revolution. Shafts of local significance only are located there now. The analysis of this coal is as follows:

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Carbon	51.36 %
Volatile Substances	43.08 %
Ash	5.56 %
	100.00

Heating capacity: 5,700 to 6,900 units.

A geological examination in 1940-41 estimated the coal reserve in the Caucasus at up to two hundred million cubic meters. It found that there are often three layers of coal separated by sand and clay. The coal seams occasionally reach a thickness of three meters.

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2.

[Redacted]

A book on coal production in the Caucasus is available in larger US libraries. Without being able to present details for the moment, [Redacted] are few coal mines in operation in the Caucasus. Because of the poor railroad facilities, which cannot be significantly improved without drastically increased budgets for the various administrative units in the Caucasus, and because of the absence of iron and steel in the area, coal production is insignificant compared to the known deposits. As a result, Caucasian coal is used only in the area itself. Prior to World War II, the Geological Institute carried on exploration steadily, presumably to get accurate estimates of the reserves for future exploitation.

3.

[Redacted]

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The consumption of coal varies between the different regions of the USSR. In the Caucasus, as in many other areas, coal is essentially available only for industrial purposes. The population depends largely on wood for space heating. In Rostov, by contrast, sufficient coal is distributed to the general population to heat their homes.

4.

[Redacted]

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Each industrial enterprise has to submit a statement on planned fuel consumption for the next year (together with estimated needs of other materials) to rayon authorities. The rayons consolidate this information and send it to the oblast, which in turn forwards a statement of material needs to the Plan Commission of the republic. The permission of the Plan Commission on the level of the republic is required before any plant can obtain fuel. The control of the fuel stocks and their distribution is in the hands of the Ministry of Coal and Fuel. After all industrial needs are met, the Planning Commission may agree to release some fuel for private space heating. Individuals or non-industrial enterprises do not petition the Planning Commission or even the Ministry of Coal and Fuel. They have to submit an application to the housing office (zhilishnyy otdel) which exists in almost every community, to which the Ministry of Coal and Fuel distributes such quantities of coal as are authorized by the Planning Commission. As a rule, the amount of coal distributed to private consumers is first reduced on paper, and subsequently only a small percentage of the theoretically authorized amount reaches the consumer. Even hotels are usually plagued by coal shortage. The distribution system works very poorly as far as the individual consumer is concerned and is generally supplemented by private barter deals. [Redacted] railroad personnel usually had more than ample supplies of coal and managed to sell some surplus.

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[Redacted]

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